

Appln. No. 09/594,875
Amdt. dated May 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action of February 17, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The February 17, 2004 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, the title, drawings and claims are amended, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

In the Office Action the title of the invention is objected to as not being descriptive. In response, the title is amended in a sincere effort to obviate the objection. In view of the amendment of the title, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the title are respectfully requested.

DRAWINGS

Fig. 6 of the drawings is amended to change "munual" to -- mutual -- in Step B07. The amendment is necessary to correct the inadvertent typographical error such that the drawings conform to the written description as originally filed. No new matter is added.

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PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by USP 6,535,243 (Tullis). Claims 2 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Tullis in view of USP 6,262,767 (Wakui). Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Tullis in view of USP 6,104,430 (Fukuoka).

In response, claims 11-13 are cancelled and claims 1 and 5 are amended in a sincere effort to more clearly define the present claimed invention over the cited references.

The camera of the present claimed invention can perform photographing, image processing and recording. The camera does not need to be used in combination with another unit to perform such operations. In addition, a PHS handset can be engaged with the camera. Then, it is determined that the PHS (Personal Handy Phone System) handset which is engaged with the camera can communicate with its PHS base, and the image data stored in the PHS handset can be transmitted to the PHS base.

USP 6,535,243 (Tullis) discloses an electronic camera system which includes a portable computer 10 having a transceiver

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function and an electronic camera 40 having a transceiver function. In this system, image data obtained by photographing of the camera 40 is sent to the portable computer 10 through a radio communication link 20. After carrying out a predetermined processing of the image data, the portable computer returns the processed image data to the camera, and at the same time records the processed image data on a recording medium after performing compression processing. By virtue of such a structural feature, the electronic camera can reproduce the image data processed by the portable computer immediately after receiving it from the portable computer, with its simple structure which does not include an image processing unit. The portable computer and the electronic camera are linked to each other by a wireless communications link. However, they are provided as one system which is indivisible. That is, they must be used in combination with each other.

USP 6,262,767 (Wakui) discloses an electronic camera system which is remote-controllable. In the system, an image picked-up by a camera with remote-controlling of a personal computer is sent to the computer, and is then recorded as data in the computer.

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USP 6,104,430 (Fukuoka) discloses an electronic camera to which various kinds of I/O cards can be applied. The camera determines the kind of an I/O card inserted therein, and performs I/O mapping according to the kind of I/O card.

Regarding the claim rejections under 35 USC 102, the Examiner cites Tullis to reject claims 1, 3-5 and 7 under 35 USC 102(e). However, the invention of Tullis cannot perform a series of photographing operations such as photographing, image processing and recording, unless the electronic camera and the portable camera are used in combination. On the other hand, in the system of the present claimed invention, image processing and recording are performed entirely in the electronic camera (see Fig. 3 of the present application). When a specific host computer can be recognized, stored image data can be sent to the host computer. That is, even if the host computer cannot be recognized, a series of photographing operations such as photographing, image processing and recording can be performed. Tullis does not disclose a camera having these features.

That is, the present claimed invention as defined by claim 1 is patentable over Tullis because Tullis does not disclose, teach or suggest an electric camera system including an electronic camera for converting an image obtained by sensing

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into a file and recording the file, wherein the electronic camera has an image processing system configured to process the obtained image and a memory card configured to store the converted file (see claim 1, lines 3-4 and 19-21).

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 and claims 2-4 which are dependent thereon are patentable over the cited references under 35 USC 102 as well 35 USC 103.

Claim 5 is patentable over the cited references because Tullis does not disclose, teach or suggest an electronic camera system including:

processing means for processing an image obtained by sensing, recording means for recording the processed image as an image file, transmission means for transmitting the image file recorded in the recording means upon receiving base station identification information of a master unit in position registration processing according to movement, the master unit having registered a self device as a subsidiary unit, wherein the image file is recorded in a recording apparatus of the master unit upon being transmitted to the master unit by the transmission means (see claim 5, lines 3-14).

Claims 6 and 7 which are dependent on claim 5 are patentable over the cited references in view of their dependence

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on claim 5 and because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in claim 5.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1-7 are patentable over the cited references under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER.

The Examiner's indication that claims 8-10, 14 and 15 are allowed over the prior art of record is acknowledged and appreciated.

NEW CLAIMS

New claims 16 and 17 are added to the present application. Claim 16 is an independent claim and claim 17 is dependent on claim 16. Claims 16 and 17 are patentable over the cited references for reasons, inter alia, set forth above.

* * * * *

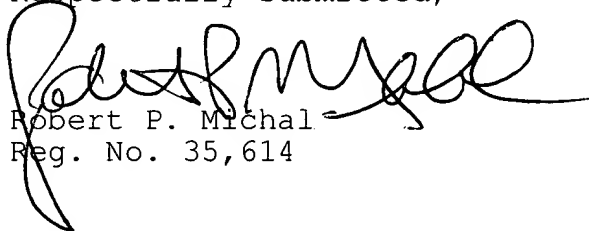
If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims, and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Encl.: Annotated sheet showing changes to Fig. 6
Replacement sheet for Fig. 6



Annotated Sheet Showing Changes
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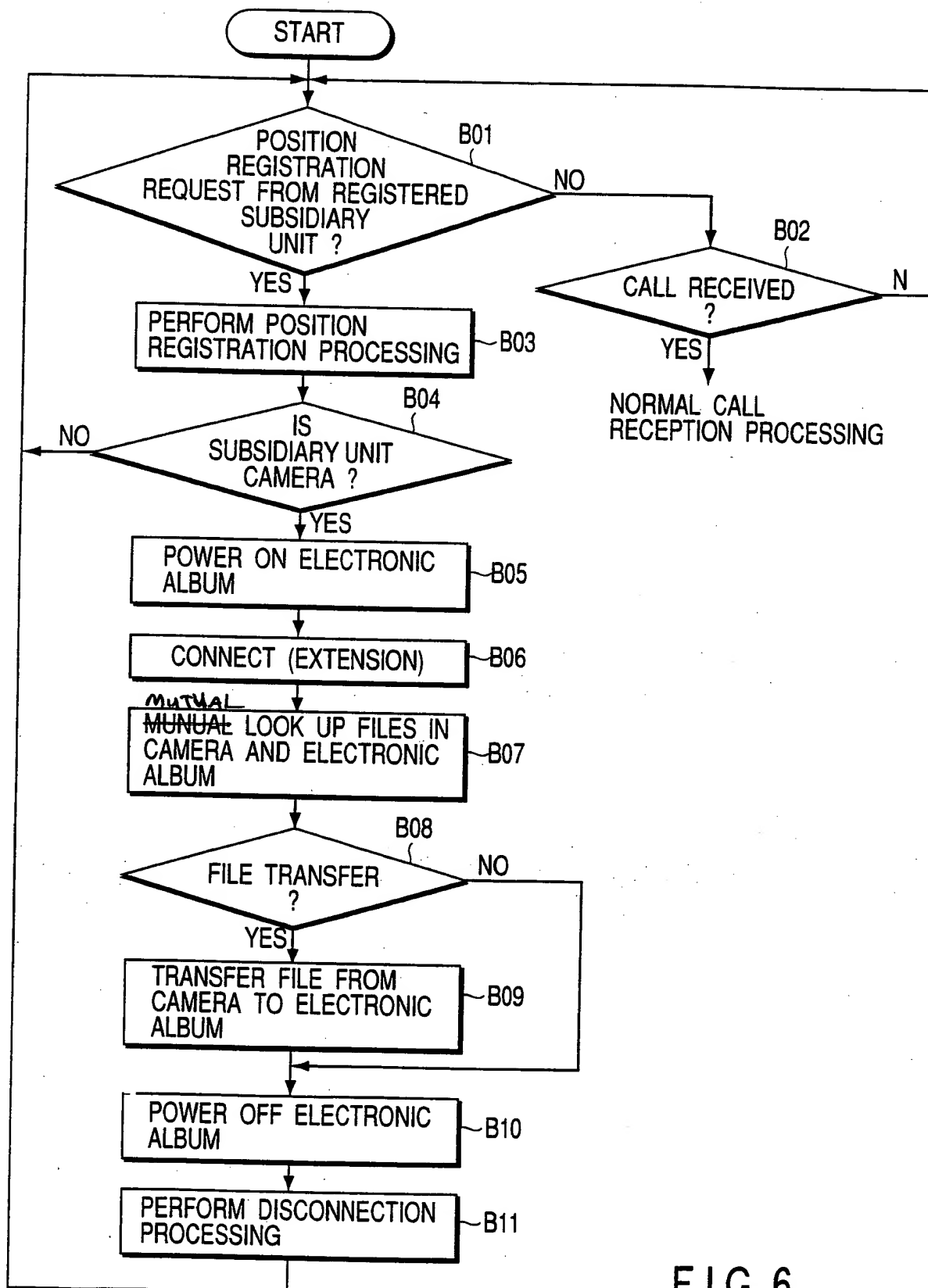


FIG. 6